"those enduring matinee idols"

FOR THE SERIAL LOVERS
WHO STILL REMEMBER
SATURDAY MATINEES

FEBRUARY - MARCH '71
VOLUME 1 - CHAPTER 9

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DIRIGIBLES, sadly, no longer are a favored mode of transportation. But in 1936 they provided several thrills for serial fans in ROBINSON CRUSOE OF CLIPPER ISLAND (Republic). In the initial episode, the murderous villain known only as H.K. is responsible for sending the airship *San Francisco* to a flaming and spectacular death. Later, the *California* (shown above) almost meets a similar fate shortly after the Polynesian hero of the serial, Mala, hooks his seaplane to the vessel and boards via a ladder. The whole exciting story starts on page 110. (Editor's Note: The dirigible is just one more superb "miniature" created by Howard Lydecker.)

MASTHEAD: The Wasp in MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN; and, Kirk Alyn (who played SUPERMAN).

UNIVERSAL PICTURES
PRESENTS

FLASH GORDON

Based On Comic Strip By
ALEX RAYMOND

Directed by Frederic Stephani
Produced by Henry MacRae

Flash Gordon	Larry "Buster"Crabbe
Dale Arden	Jean Rogers
Ming	Charles Middleton
Aura	Priscilla Lawson
Vultan	John Lipson
Prince Barin	Richard Alexander
Dr. Zarkov	Frank Shannon
King Kala	Duke York, Jr.
Officer Torch	Earl Askam
High Priest	Theodore Lorch
King Thun	James Pierce
Zona	Muriel Goodspeed
Gordon, Sr.	Richard Tucker

CHAPTER ONE

THE PLANET OF PERIL

TERROR AND PANIC spread across the face of Earth. A wild planet has been hurtled thru space by some unknown force, causing atmospheric disturbances of devastating proportions. Worse yet, it is on a collision course with Earth.

Flash Gordon, on his way home to spend the last few days of Earth's existence with his father (Professor Gordon), meets Dale Arden aboard a small passenger plane.

The plane is caught in the middle of a severe storm. An announcement is made by the pilot that parachutes were provided in the event the plane became endangered. Passengers are given the option of bailing-out, or chance riding-out the storm until the plane is able to land at its destination.

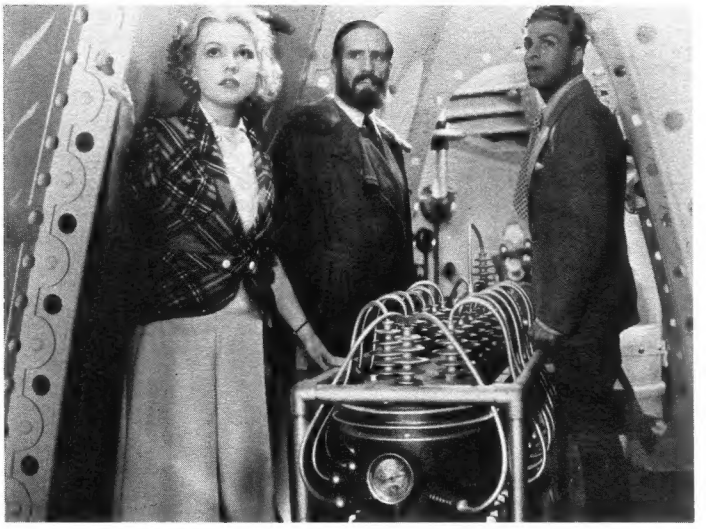
Larry "Buster" Crabbe, Jean Rogers, Lynton Brent

Flash helps Dale don her 'chute. But she is terrified (as are the other passengers, with the exception of Flash) when she approaches the hatch to jump out. Flash grins, seizes her about the waist, and leaps — both using Dale's 'chute for the descent to the ground.

Flash and Dale land safely. (This is observed by a Doctor Zarkov.) After disengaging themselves from the 'chute, they set out to seek shelter. They haven't walked far when they sight an odd shaped rocket. It is then that Zarkov makes himself known. He appears, and holds the two at gunpoint.

Flash and Dale each introduce themselves; Flash adds he has heard about Zarkov's scientific accomplishments. Zarkov relates his belief that the strange planet bearing down upon Earth is inhabited and radioactive. And he is positive he can fly to the planet in his rocketship (of his own design) and tap its energy, thus diverting it from its collision course with Earth.

Zarkov's intended assistant for the journey has fled. So he asks Flash to help him. Flash agrees with one stipulation — that Dale be taken along. At first reluctant, Zarkov finally acquiesces. The rocketship departs.



After a swift journey thru space, they land on the unknown planet (later identified as Mongo). The first form of life they encounter is a giant, carnivorous lizard. However, before they are devoured another lizard appears and attacks the one imperiling the earthlings.

Next, a rocketship comes on the scene and emits a strange ray that kills the battling lizards. When the ship lands, Officer Torch and two ray-gun carrying robots emerge. Torch announces they are captives of Ming — the self-proclaimed emperor of the Universe.

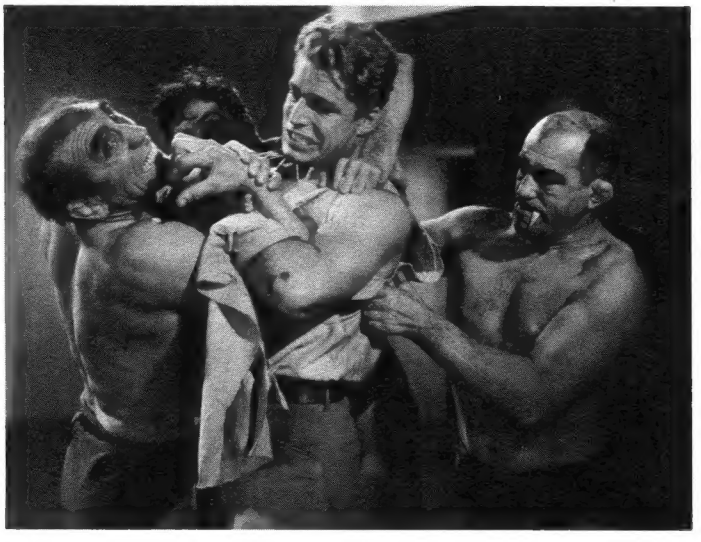
In the emperor's throne room, Ming questions his captives. He tells Zarkov that the collision course his planet is taking toward Earth is *planned.* Zarkov (seemingly turning against his friends) suggests Ming should conquer Earth, not destroy it. Ming likes the idea and sends Zarkov to his laboratory, promising him everything he needs (to accomplish the feat) *except his freedom.*

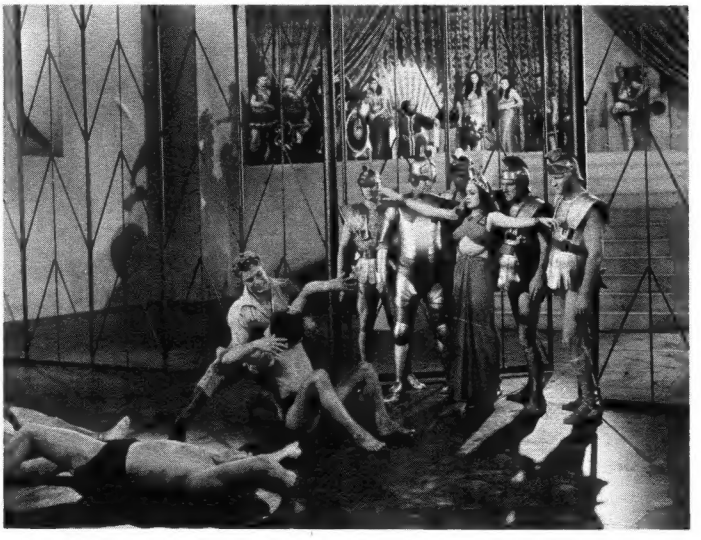
Then the plot takes on new dimensions as Ming gets his first real look at Dale. He is awed by her blond beauty. When he commences feeling her hair, Flash becomes infuriated and makes a grab for Ming's throat.

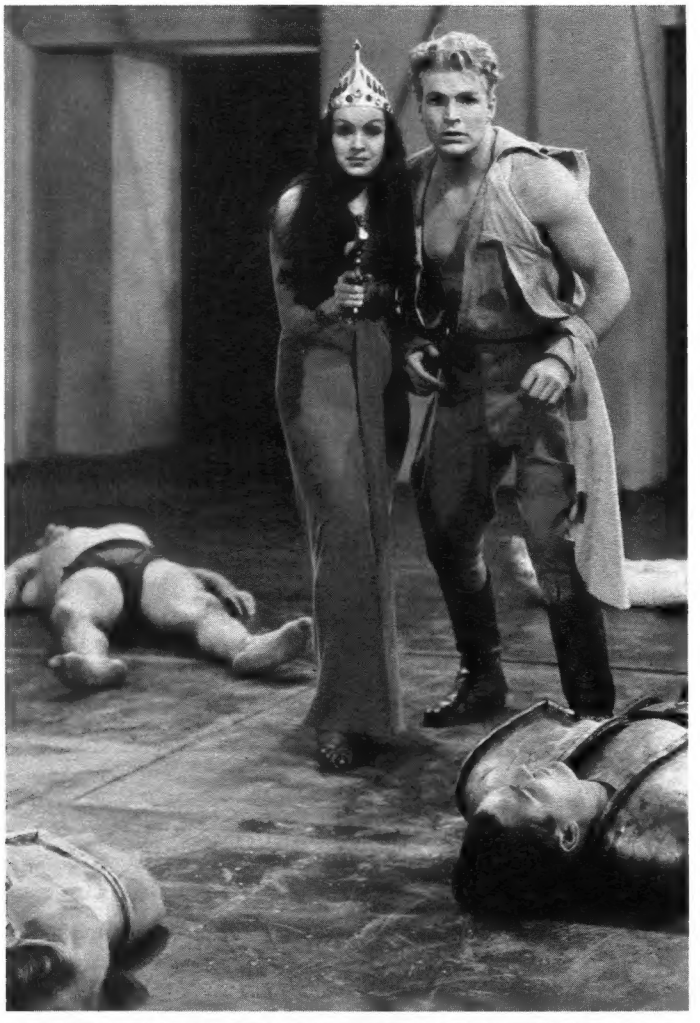
This incenses the emperor. He orders: "Throw him into the arena!"

Enter Aura, daughter of Ming. She strikes a bargain with her satanic father: "If he survives, he's mine."

Three animal-like men set upon Flash. After a ferocious fight, Flash bests his opponents. However, Ming reneges on his promise and now orders Flash to be hurled into the "pit" (of lizards). Aura protests and rushes into the arena. Guards are sent after Flash and another battle ensues.







Aura seizes the ray gun of a fallen guard and dashes to Flash's side. She fires. The ray hits a guard standing by a panel of levers (one of which controls the trap door to the pit). He pushes down a lever, sending Flash and Aura plummeting into a seemingly bottomless pit.

CHAPTER TWO / *THE TUNNEL OF TERROR*

Ming sees to it another lever is quickly activated when he frantically shouts: "*The net!*" (Editor's Note: A huge circular frame with a net appears and covers the pit *below* the falling Flash and Aura and *above* a bevy of giant lizards, of the variety seen in chapter one.)

Thru a viewer, Ming witnesses the fact Flash and Aura have escaped certain death. He orders guards to seize them both.

Aura leads Flash out of the pit area thru a maze of tunnels. When guards approach, they hide in a side tunnel. There, Aura feels Flash's muscles, then inquires if he loves Dale. Before he can respond, the guards have passed and they continue on until they come upon a rocketship. Aura persuades Flash to wait in the ship while she goes to her father to plead for Dale's safety. However, once Flash is inside she kicks away the boarding ladder and whispers that Flash will never see Dale again!

Inside the rocket, Flash finds a locker containing a much needed garment to replace his torn and tattered clothing.

Meanwhile, Ming goes to his laboratory. Zarkov informs him there is enough power in his machines to produce sufficient radioactive energy to conquer the Universe. Ming chortles and announces that is exactly what he intends to do, and to do it with Zarkov's aid.

In another room in the palace, Dale tells the High Priest of Taeo she refuses to put on the ceremonial robes he has ordered her to wear — much less marry Ming.

The Priest departs angrily and reports to Ming, who tells him to use a device called the "Dehumanizer" to cease Dale's opposition.

Back to Flash. An alarm sounds and he looks out to see an approaching armada of spiral-top "gyro-ships." Realizing his friends in the palace are in peril, Flash takes off in the rocketship to do battle.

His attack on the intruders is devastating. But, a collision with one of the foreign aircraft sends both spinning to the planet's surface, locked together. After the crash, a huge, bearded man (Thun, Prince of the Lion Men) emerges and attacks Flash. Flash is the victor, but when both realize they are enemies of Ming, they decide to become allies. Thun knows of a secret entrance into the castle and enters with Flash.

The two reach Ming's lab where Zarkov happily informs Flash that the planet has been diverted and Earth saved!

At this moment, a large idol is manipulated by the High Priest. It is the oracle which will decide whether or not the god Taco looks favorably on Ming's marriage to Dale. When Flash sees this on the tele-screen, he is determined to stop the ceremony.

An exotically gowned Dale, under the influence of the "Dehumanizer", is led into the ceremonial chamber. Ming is present as well as Zarkov, ostensibly to congratulate Ming. A gong is struck. When it is struck for the 13th time, the marriage ceremony will be completed!

As the gong rings, Flash and Thun make their way toward the chamber. However, they encounter a group of guards. A battle follows. Thun holds the guards in combat while ordering Flash to continue on and stop the ceremony.

Flash comes upon a huge set of doors. He finds a lever to open them — and enters a mammoth, mist-filled cave. In it, he sees a dragon-like monster with giant talons similar to a lobster.

The beast seizes Flash and in moments he hangs limp, a victim of "Ming's guardian of the caves"!

(Concluded in next chapter of TEMI)

THE ADVENTURES OF FRANK MERRIWELL evolved from the Frank Merriwell magazine series that ran for 986 continuous weeks, from 1896 to 1915. The stories were written by William Patton Gilbert, under the pseudonym Burt L. Standish.

Merriwell was advertised as "The World's Greatest Fiction Hero." But they should have called him "the all-American college boy." In the serial he participates (and always wins) in baseball, track, rowing, football, etc.

The star was Don Briggs. Also in the cast were the "Juniors" of Wallace Reid, House Peters, Bryant Washburn, and Edward Arnold—along with Jean Hersholt's son, Allan. Unhappily, his name was misspelled on the full color poster art promoting the serial as "Alan." Also, on the posters Louis Friedlander is credited as director. Not fact. Cliff Smith did the chores.

Main thread of the plot is a treasure hunt. One good chapter ending has Frank (and many others) travelling on a bus. The driver turns out to be a gangster. Frank eventually takes the wheel. *The brakes burn out!* The bus crashes into a brick building. No way can so many passengers leap clear before the impact. The gimmick is that the bus "smashes thru" the wall—and, fortunately, no one is really hurt.

As old as the character is, Standish's sports hero is not retired. A musical called "Frank Merriwell" has been announced for an April opening on Broadway in New York.

CHAPTER TITLES

1. **The College Hero**
2. **The Death Plunge!**
3. **Death at Crossroads**
4. **Wreck of the Viking**
5. **Capsized in the Cataract**
6. **Descending Doom**
7. **Monster of the Deep**
8. **The Tragic Victory**
9. **Between Savage Foes**
10. **Imprisoned in Dungeon**
11. **The Crash in the Chasm**
12. **The Winning Play**

ADVENTURES of FRANK MERRIWELL was Universal's initial serial in '36, and released on 1/3. It was followed on 4/6 by FLASH GORDON.

Scene is from chapter #1, when Merriwell receives an urgent summons from his family to return home. (L. to R.) John King, Jean Rogers and Don Briggs.

THE CAST

Mala	MALA
Rex	REX
Buck	BUCK
Melani	MAMO CLARK
Jackson	HERBERT RAWLINSON
Hank	WILLIAM NEWELL
Tupper	JOHN WARD
Canfield	SELMER JACKSON
Ellsworth	JOHN DILSON
Porotu	John Picorri
Draker	George Chesebro
Wilson	Robert Kortman
Goebel	George Cleveland
Lamar	Lloyd Whitlock
Eppa	Tiny Roebuck
Larkin	Tracy Layne
Stevens	Herbert Weber
Radio Operator	Anthony Pawley
Taylor	Allen Connor

ROBINSON CRUSOE OF CLIPPER ISLAND ('37) was the last chapter-play release in Republic's first year of serial output. It ran the unusual length of 14 episodes. Why not the customary 12, 13 or 15 is unknown.

The only disappointment of the serial was the casting of the hero (Ray) Mala. Mala was too slender and certainly did not look physically impressive to be believable in the derring-do he had to execute. The part clearly called for someone like Herman Brix or Buster Crabbe. Mamo Clark, as Princess Melani, was attractive in her role, yet, like Mala, not a good performer.

The so-called "comedy relief," all too much in evidence in Republic's initial releases, was handled by William Newell and John Ward. Their constant wranglings and needling of each other was more bearable than the combos of Smiley Burnette and Frankie Marvin in UNDERSEA KINGDOM; Burnette, Oscar and Elmer in DICK TRACY; and Oscar and Elmer once again in THE PAINTED STALLION. The single complaint with John Ward was his lack of a convincing English accent. Also, the story never clarified whether or not Ward's character was actually the bumbling British novelist he claimed to be, or a secret agent of some kind working to crack the Pacific Dirigible Airlines (P.D.A.) mystery as well. His good shooting and surprising bravado in the last chapter seemed to point in the latter direction.

Chief heavy of the serial was the mysterious H.K. The role was handled in grand style without the use of a special costume, robes or hood. In regular business clothes, H.K.'s sequences usually had a lamp or some such object blocking his face, or else were shot over the rear of a high backed chair. Suspicion was tossed about nicely from one suspect to another. Herbert Rawlinson, John Dilson and Selmer Jackson made a fine trio of suspects as the directors of P.D.A.

Supporting in villainy were John Picorri (Moloch in DICK TRACY), George Chesebro, Robert Kortman, Al Taylor, and, surprisingly, George Cleveland. Lloyd Whitlock was delightfully pompous and bossy as the overzealous Lamar.

Particular mention should go to the aerial sequences, such as the destruction of the dirigible San Francisco. In chapter one it is sabotaged and set ablaze, splits in half in mid-air, and finally crashes to Earth. Also, the volcanic eruption in the last episode was well staged.

CRUSOE segments were to play an important part two years later in THE FIGHTING DEVIL DOGS. That DEVIL DOGS came out so well is a tribute to the quality of the footage shot on CRUSOE and the skill in putting DEVIL DOGS together.

A note of interest is that one of the film editors was a very young William Witney (see page 48), who later began a directorial association with John English that would result in some classic serials from Republic.

For T.V., the serial was re-edited into a feature and called "Robinson Crusoe of Mystery Island."

Adaptation of Serial for TEMI by ERIC HOFFMAN
Photo Captions by the Editor

THE STORY

The scene is an office somewhere on the West Coast, headquarters of P.D.A. — a newly formed corporation. In the office, looking out over the hanger where the huge dirigible *San Francisco* is being moved out for launching, are the directors of the corporation; Ellsworth, Canfield and Jackson. All three are distinguished looking men in business suits.

Ellsworth: From a dream - an idea - a thought - the *San Francisco* has become a magnificent reality.

Jackson: Yes, Ellsworth, establishing a regular passenger and freight service between California and Australia will bring us a fortune.

Ellsworth: The *San Francisco* means more to me than dollars, Jackson. I see her as a monument of science and engineering to blaze the way to greater living.

Canfield: San Francisco can't fail!

But this conference is broken up when a message arrives, shattering all enthusiasm. The refueling tanks on Clipper Island, a small island in the Pacific, have caught fire. Ellsworth wants to stop the flight out of concern for the people on the dirigible. However, Jackson uses his power as the company's president and largest stockholder to let the flight continue.

"The dirigible has fuel enough aboard her to fly the entire distance between here and Sidney. To call off the flight now will absolutely ruin us."

But Ellsworth's fears for the dirigible and its passengers are well founded. A mysterious international spy group, headed by the unidentified H.K., has not only caused the fire on Clipper Island, but sabotaged the dirigible. As it passes over Clipper Island, the airship's rear starboard engine begins backfiring. The P.D.A. radio operator on the island tries to warn the Captain of the dirigible. But he is killed by H.K.'s minions (in a way to make it look like the local natives did the act).

Soon the after section of the airship is on fire. The crew is overcome by the flames and smoke as a "mayday" is radioed to Clipper Island. It is only a brief matter of time before the blazing back section breaks away and falls to the ground.

The following day, Ellsworth tells his fellow executives that he has asked the government for help in investigating the two disasters, which he feels are connected. Mala, a Polynesian, is assigned to the case. He plans to go to Clipper Island as the new radio operator for P.D.A.

At his secret hideout H.K. radios his agent, Lamar: "Two-ten reports that a United States Government operative is on his way to Clipper Island. That's in your department, Lamar. Take care of him." Lamar responds: "I'll act at once, sir. He'll never reach the island alive."

Mala takes a clipper plane to Honolulu. Enter, now, the other principals in the story: Mala's "Man Friday," Hank McGlaurie, and St. Bernard dog, Buck; Anthony Tupper, an English novelist; and Princess Melani, returning from the U.S. on the same plane (and later ship) as Mala to resume her role as ruler of the natives on Komatoa (adjacent to Clipper Island).

Mala's first big peril comes when an attempt is made to stop him from continuing his journey on the schooner *Tuloa*. Agents of H.K., headed by Captain Wilson, engage in a fight with Mala and Hank aboard the *Tuloa*. During the melee, a fire is started. Hank is knocked into the water. Mala frees a horse, Rex (who will later become his companion), to allow the animal to dive overboard to safety. However, Mala is knocked to the deck of the ship. A huge mast, ablaze, comes crashing down on the unconscious Mala.

Fortunately, Mala comes to in time (in chapter two) and rolls out of the way, then makes good his escape from the ship.

Once on the island, Mala soon finds himself opposed by H.K.'s gang. The leader is Draker, in charge of decoding intercepted government messages. Elaborate decoding equipment is kept in an old fortress honeycombed with caves located near a sacred volcano. To control the nearby natives, the enemy scientist, Goebel, is able to cause the volcano to "erupt" whenever deemed necessary. He does this thru an intricate process. An eruption sends the natives praying to the volcano god, Pele. High Priest of the tribe is Porotu, who works with H.K.'s agents against his ruler, the Princess Melani.

Much later, Mala learns that P.D.A. plans to launch a second dirigible, the *California*. All three directors are to be aboard. Mala flies out to meet the airship as it nears Clipper Island, unaware that two agents of H.K. have been given orders by their unknown chief (seen only as a shadow, but definitely established now that he is one of the P.D.A. directors) to connect tanks of gas to the ventilators, knocking out the crew — whilst the three "kidnapped" directors are lowered down to a submarine (summoned by H.K. via the dirigible radio). Mala sees the transfer . . . and makes a mid-air hook-up of his plane to the dirigible. He ultimately saves the airship from disaster.

In the fortress, Ellsworth and Jackson are tied up. Canfield is taken to a separate cell. H.K. appears, and learns that Princess Melani has natives guarding the sea cave entrance to the hideout.

H.K. snarls: "How do you expect to operate when every native on the Pacific knows of this base?" He decides to abandon the fortress . . . but, before departing, plans to cause the volcano to erupt. Goebel protests that the plan will wreck the fort and kill them all.

Mala and Hank sneak into the fortress and discover Ellsworth and Jackson. Mala is now sure of the identity of H.K., but his triumph is short-lived as aides of H.K. enter, followed by H.K. himself, *Canfield!* Tupper appears, and a fight ensues. The heroes are bested and tied up.

Canfield gloats: "I'm sorry I won't be here to share your amusement when the volcano blows the side out of this mountain." He and his men leave, planning to escape in the submarine.

Buck and Rex, their animal instincts alerted to the danger their master is in, come to the locked room where Mala is held captive. Rex kicks in the door and Buck chews thru Mala's bonds. Mala frees his friends and they flee.

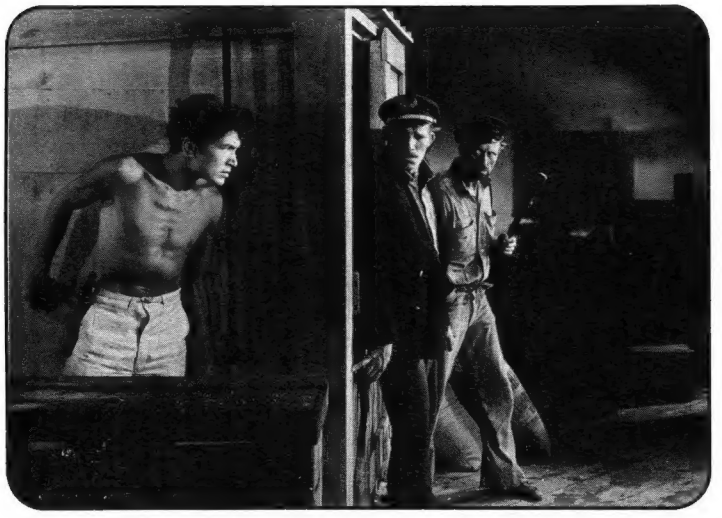
All hell breaks loose as the volcano erupts. But the heroes are successful in reaching the beach and setting out to sea in an outrigger. In the sacred grotto near the volcano pit, Porotu and his followers maniacally pray to Pele. However, the statue of the god comes crashing down on Porotu. Back to H.K. and his men. As the submarine pulls out thru the sea cave, the entire cave roof and mountainside comes crashing down, burying the sub under tons of rock.

CHAPTER TITLES

1. The Mysterious Island
2. Flaming Danger
3. Fathoms Below
4. Into the Enemy's Camp
5. Danger in the Air
6. The God of the Volcano
7. Trail's End
8. The Jaws of the Beast
9. The Cave of the Winds
10. Wings of Fury
11. Agents of Disaster
12. The Sea Trap
13. Mutiny!
14. Thunder Mountain

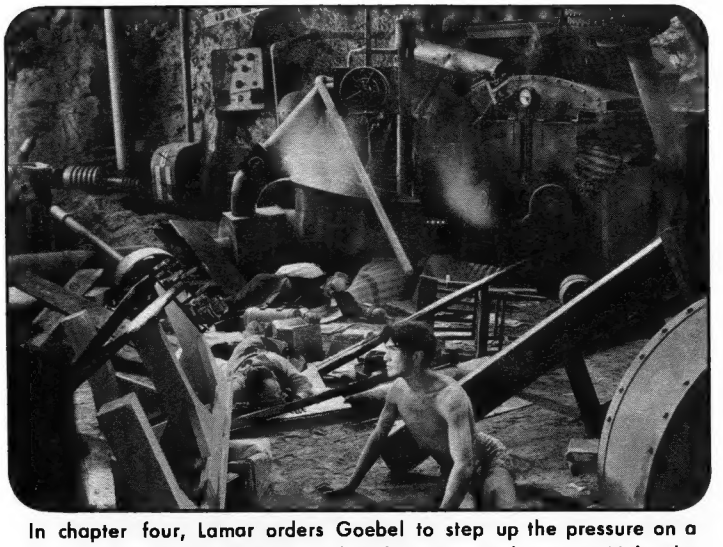
DIRECTED BY
MACK V. WRIGHT and RAY TAYLOR

Principals in CLIPPER ISLAND are (L. to R.) Hank MacGlaurie, Rex, Anthony Tupper, Princess Melani and Mala. In the foreground is Buck. (Ed. Note: The animals received billing ahead of the heroine.)



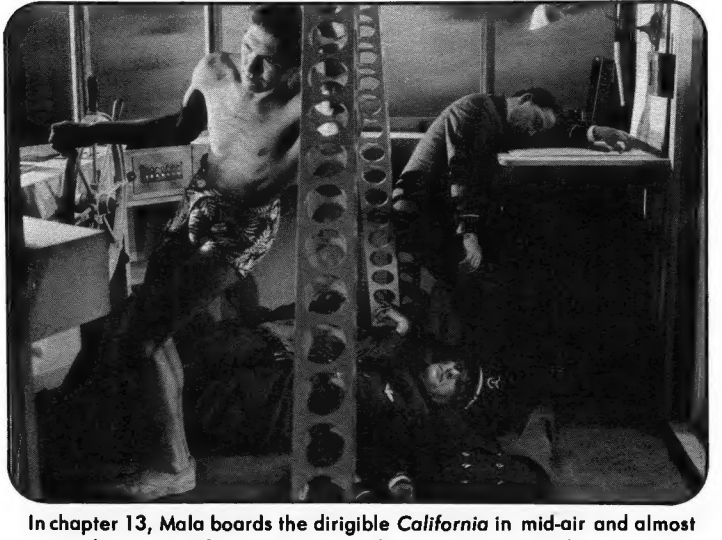
Mala encounters his first real danger when he meets up with Captain Wilson (skipper of the schooner, *Tuloa*) and a seaman (stunt actor, Al Taylor). Later the *Tuloa* meets its demise in a spectacular fire. (1)

From time to time, Mala is successful in going *"Into the Enemy's Camp"* — H.K.'s island headquarters. This view is of the decoding room for the international spy ring. At far right is Draker. (2)



In chapter four, Lamar orders Goebel to step up the pressure on a huge boiler. Goebel leaves and Mala enters. Unknown to Mala, the pressure gauge passes the danger point . . . and the boiler explodes. (3)

Later, Mala returns to the mainland and leads a raid on H.K.'s hide-away. (That's H.K. far right broadcasting instructions to his men on the island.) The gang is captured, but H.K. escapes thru a secret panel. (4)



In chapter 13, Mala boards the dirigible *California* in mid-air and almost succumbs to gas fumes. However, he manages to find a gas mask, pull the airship out of a death dive, then revive the crew. (5)

Canfield (far right) announces that he is H.K. The other two directors of P.D.A., bound, are (left) Ellsworth and Jackson. Standing next to H.K. is Draker. Canfield did nothing more than to change hats to effect his disguise. (6)

Adaptation of THE BLACK COIN for TEMI by JAMES A. STRINGHAM

CHAPTER TITLES

1. **Dangerous Men**
2. **The Mystery Ship**
3. **The Fatal Plunge**
4. **Monsters of the Deep**
5. **Wolves of the Night**
6. **Shark's Fang**
7. **Midnight Menace**
8. **Flames of Death**
9. **Smuggler's Lair**
10. **Flaming Guns**
11. **Wheels of Death**
12. **The Crash**
13. **Danger Ahead**
14. **Hidden Peril**
15. **The Phantom Treasure**

In the caves of Rancho Ortega, a Caswell enterprize, Dave O'Brien and Ruth Mix discover smugglers secreting contraband in bales of wool.

Weiss-Mintz tried a standard gangster adventure (with variations) for THE BLACK COIN ('36), their third sound serial and the last to be released thru Stage and Screen.

The initial episode established the use of the international Caswell Shipping Company by smugglers. Heading up the "runners" was Jensen (Mathew Betz). Caswell (Bryant Washburn) becomes aware of the situation. Terry Navarro (Dave O'Brien), Santa Clara agent of the company, travels to a desert port to deliver papers to Caswell and his daughter Virginia (Constance Bergen), which will unmask the actual criminals. Secret Service agents Walter Prescott (Ralph Graves) and Dorothy Dale (Ruth Mix) suspect Caswell and are watching the group. Repeated attempts to obtain the papers are made by Jensen's gangsters, including Hackett (Robert Frazer), Shark Malone (Robert Walker), and Gleason (Roger Williams).

THE BLACK COIN should have been plural, since there were twelve of them. Together, the coins would form a map showing the location of buried gold. Interestingly, the coins provided the sub-plot. But all of Jensen's men were willing to ignore the business at hand for a bit of treasure hunting, so one of the most complicated series of double crosses ever filmed took place. It was impossible to keep track of the coins, and the papers were stolen, recovered, re-stolen, traded for a coin, and even at one point lost at sea.

The chapter introductions attempted to keep viewers apprized of the current status of the coins, papers, and characters, but it was almost impossible. Episode twelve, for instance, opened with:

"Terry Navarro surprises Hackett stealing the Caswell papers from Gleason's safe at Morena Bay. Obtaining the papers, Terry escapes in Hackett's car, pursued by Hackett, Gleason, and Malone. At the 'relay ranch' Jensen learns from Purcell that the iron fence surrounding the ranch has been connected with the generator and can be charged with 20,000 volts of electricity. At the gas station where Terry stops for water, he is accused of driving a stolen auto, and escapes in a police car." (He wrecked it trying to beat a train to a crossing in the resulting chase.)

The overly complicated plot and comparative lack of action disappointed some viewers, but the serial should be credited with avoiding the cheap feel of many of the independents. The producer found some large, convincing sets and didn't hesitate to fill them with people. Shark Malone's ship *Sea Gull* was obviously the *Nellie D* from THE CLUTCHING HAND, but it was effectively used. The large scale fights (see page 24) there and elsewhere were always enjoyable. Repeated changes of scene also helped, with the plot moving from the Arabian port to a California city, and then to the Caswell ranch for several chapters of western adventure. Dave O'Brien, altho billed third (second on stills from the serial), carried most of the action, and his skill and that of Yakima Canutt produced many good stunts. The usual Weiss-Mintz excellent supporting cast included Clara Kimball Young, Lane Chandler, Snub Pollard, and William Desmond. Elmer Clifton directed.

Attempting to steal the Caswell papers, henchmen of Shark Malone ambush Dave O'Brien in a waterfront hangout.

KING OF THE STUNTMEN

YAKIMA CANUTT, whose real name is Enos Edward "Yakima" Canutt, was born 11/29/1895 in Colfax, Washington. He picked up his nickname during a rodeo in 1914 when a photographer snapped him sailing off a bucking bronco. In error, the newspaper captioned it "Cowboy from Yakima Takes Flight."

Canutt's feats as a movie stuntman are legendary. He received an Honorary Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on 4/3/67 "for creating the profession of stuntmen as it exists today and for the development of many safety devices . . ."

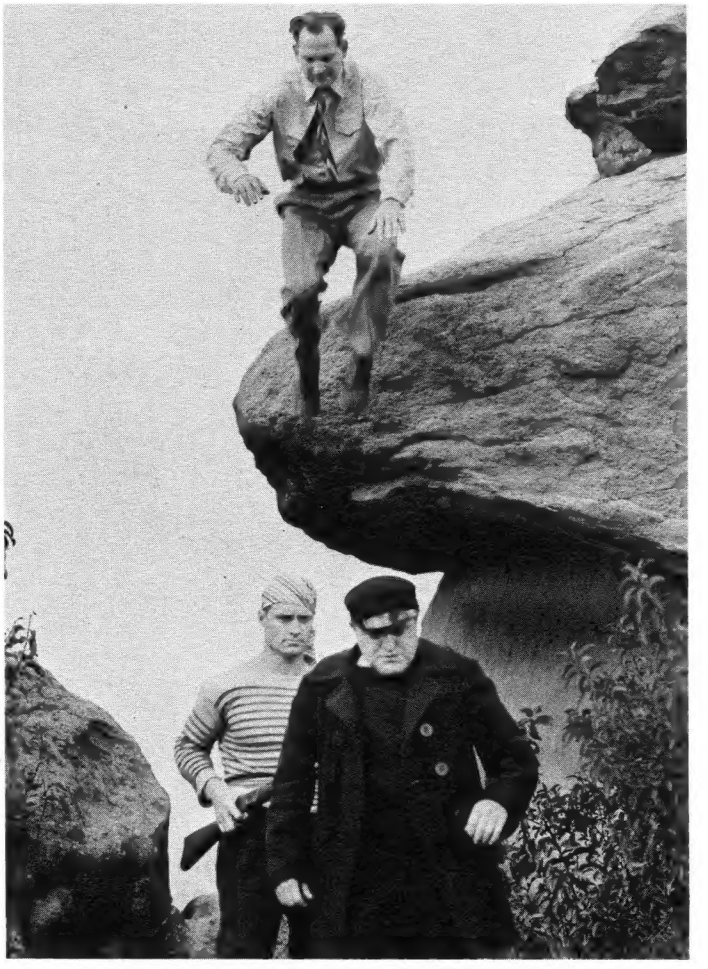
With actor John Wayne, Canutt perfected film fighting — developing a technique of throwing punches so that a fist in front of an opponent's face (at a selected camera angle), with realistic recoils and proper sound effects, made it look as tho it had connected.

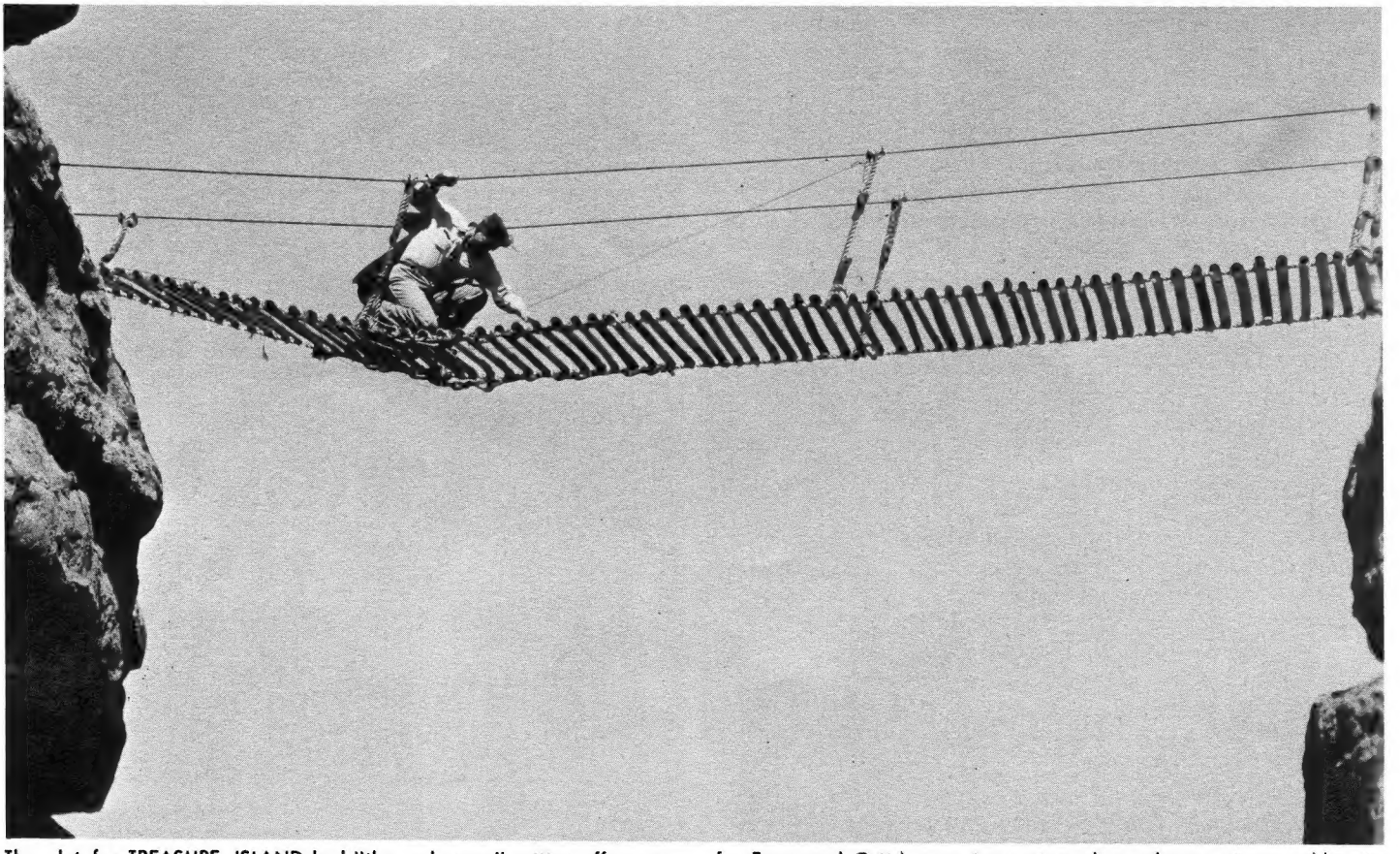
He also invented many tricks including rigging a wagon with fine wire so that it can disintegrate on cue . . . and, tripping a horse so that it falls as tho shot.

Yakima Canutt is still working today as a "second unit director" — overseeing spectacular action sequences.

Canutt has been a cast member, as well as stunt-doubled for others, in serials too numerous to list — particularly during the '30s. One in which he performed the dual function is THE SECRET OF TREASURE ISLAND (Col.-'38). He played Dreer, leader of "the mole men," and doubled for hero Don Terry.

Editor's Note: When in or near Los Angeles, be sure to visit MOVIE and TV STUNTMEN'S MUSEUM, 15701 East Avenue M, Lancaster, California 93534. For more information, write the museum director John Hagner.





The plot for TREASURE ISLAND had "the mole men" setting off an explosion while actors Don Terry and Joe Caits were crossing a rope bridge. This photo clearly shows Yakima Canutt and another stuntman (doubling for Terry and Caits) preparing various clips, releases, straps, cable, etc. to perform the stunt of "riding" the falling bridge.

The stunt! A boulder smashes the bridge behind Canutt and partner as they swing free in their safety harnesses.

Finally, Terry and Caits, back in their roles, pick themselves up. Note the bridge dangling above them.

CHAPTER 13

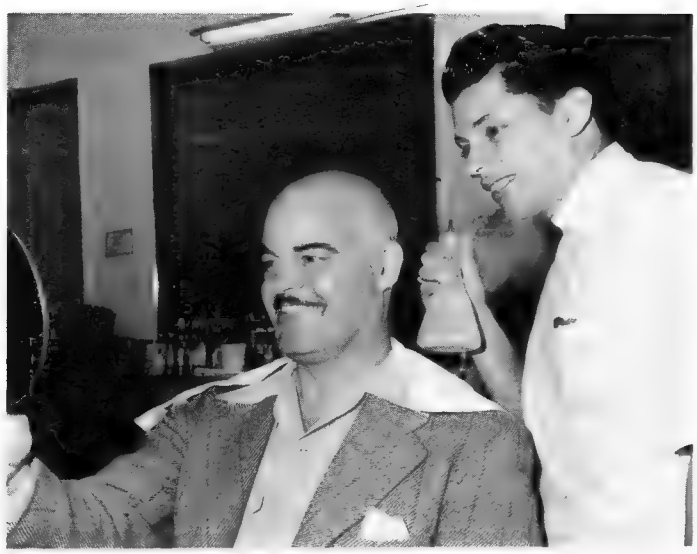
126 serial personalities have, to date, been listed in TEMI's necrology—tho, only the year of demise for each was shown. Many readers have requested complete information. To help us provide this service, we called for the assistance of BILL STEWART, Carmichael, California. Bill responded in the positive—and, we are gratefully indebted to him.

The (*) following a name indicates that we were in error in our original listing.

	Born	Died	Age
Eddie Acuff	1908	12/17/56	48
Ernie Adams	6/18/85	11/26/47	62
Frank Albertson	2/ 2/09	2/29/64	55
Stanley Andrews	8/28/91	6/23/69	77
Johnny Arthur*	5/20/83	12/31/51	68
Lionel Atwill	3/ 1/85	4/22/46	61
Mischa Auer	11/17/05	3/ 5/67	61
David Bacon	3/24/14	9/12/43	29
Rod Bacon	6/ 6/14	2/28/48	33
Roy Barcroft	9/ 7/02	11/28/69	67
Clyde Beatty	6/10/05	7/19/65	61
Rex Bell	10/16/03	7/ 4/62	58
Noah Beery, Sr.	2/17/82	4/ 1/46	64

From Columbia's THE MONSTER AND THE APE.

Willie Best (above)	5/27/16	2/27/62	45
Charles Bickford	1/ 1/91	11/ 9/67	76
Monte Blue	1/11/90	2/18/63	73
Stanley Blystone	8/ 1/94	7/16/56	61
Hobart Bosworth	8/11/67	12/30/43	76
Alan Bridge	2/26/91	12/27/57	66
Otto Brower		1/25/46	55
Frank Buck	3/17/84	3/25/50	66
Lester (Smiley) Burnette	3/18/11	2/16/67	55
Edgar Rice Burroughs	9/ 1/75	3/19/50	74
Francis X. Bushman, Sr.	1/10/83	8/23/66	83
Ralph Byrd	4/22/09	8/18/52	43
Harry Carey	1/16/78	9/21/47	69
Leo Carrillo	8/ 6/81	9/10/61	80



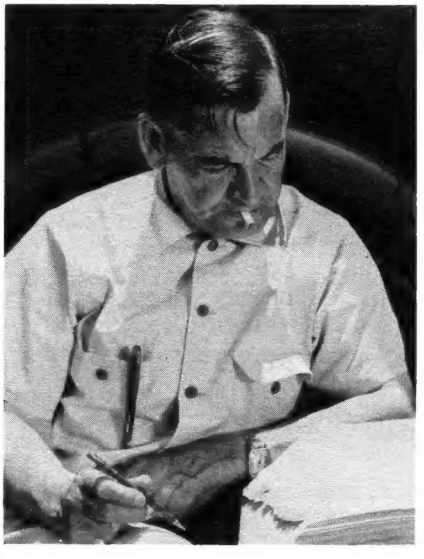
JOHN MERTON has just gone thru the ordeal of having his head shaved for the part of Dr. Tobor, villain in Columbia's HOP HARRIGAN (1946). The barber is Benny Garcia.

George Chesebro	7/29/88	5/28/59	70
Eduardo Ciannelli a/k/a Edward Ciannelli	8/30/89	10/ 8/69	80
George Cleveland*	9/17/85	7/15/57	71
Harry Cording	4/26/91	9/ 1/54	63
Morgan Cox		10/23/68	68
Richard Cramer	7/ 3/90	8/ 9/60	70
Grace Cunard	1893	1/19/67	73
John Davidson	12/25/87	1/15/68	80
Reginald Denny	11/21/91	6/16/67	75
William Desmond	1/23/78	11/ 2/49	71
Arthur Conan Doyle	1859	7/ 7/30	71
Tom Dugan*	1/ 1/89	3/ 7/55	66
Ralph Dunn	5/23/02	2/19/68	65
James Durkin		3/12/34	55
Reeves (Reaves) Eason	10/ 2/86	6/ 9/56	69
Gordon Elliott a/k/a William; Wild Bill	10/16/05	11/26/65	60
Hugh Enfield a/k/a Craig Reynolds	7/15/07	10/22/49	42
John English		10/11/69	66
William Farnum	7/ 4/76	6/ 5/53	76
Francis Ford	8/15/82	9/ 5/53	71
Robert Frazer	6/29/89	8/17/44	55
Louis Friedlander a/k/a Lew Landers	1/ 2/01	12/15/62	61
Hoot Gibson	8/ 6/92	8/23/62	70
Paul Guilfoyle	7/14/02	6/27/61	58
Kenneth Harlan	7/26/95	3/ 6/67	71
Edward Hearn	9/ 6/88	4/15/63	74
Robert F. Hill	4/14/86	3/18/66	79
Jack Holt	5/31/88	1/18/51	62
James W. Horne	12/14/81	6/29/42	60
Reed Howes	7/ 5/00	8/ 6/64	64
Jack Ingram	11/15/02	2/20/69	66
Charles "Buck" Jones	12/ 4/89	11/30/42	52
Gordon Jones	4/ 5/12	6/20/63	51
Robert Jordan a/k/a Bobby Jordan	4/ 1/23	9/10/65	42
Boris Karloff	11/23/87	2/ 2/69	81
Tom Keene a/k/a Richard Powers	12/30/96	8/ 4/63	66

Paul Kelly	8/ 9/99	11/ 6/56	57
Cy Kendall	3/10/98	7/22/53	55
Edgar Kennedy	4/26/90	11/ 9/48	58
Robert Kent	12/ 3/08	5/ 4/55	46
Charles King	2/21/95	5/ 7/57	62
Robert Kortman	12/24/87	3/13/67	79
Frank Lackteen	8/29/95	7/ 8/68	72
Carole Landis	1/ 1/19	7/ 5/48	29
Bela Lugosi*	10/20/82	8/16/56	73
Henry MacRae		10/ 2/44	68
(Ray) Mala		9/23/52	46
Miles Mander	5/14/88	2/ 8/46	57
Bob Mark		4/18/68	62
Tully Marshall	4/10/64	3/10/43	78
LeRoy Mason*	7/ 2/03	10/13/47	44
Francis McDonald	8/22/91	9/18/68	77
Lafe McKee	1/23/72	8/10/59	87
Frank Merrill	3/21/93	2/12/66	72
John Merton	2/18/01	9/18/59	58
Charles Middleton	10/ 7/79	4/22/49	69
Walter Miller	3/ 9/92	3/30/40	48
Tom Mix	1/ 6/80	10/12/40	60
Gerald Mohr	6/11/14	11/ 9/68	54
Dennis Moore	1/26/08	3/ 1/64	56
Ralph Morgan	7/ 6/83	6/11/56	72
Adrian Morris	1/12/07	11/30/41	34
Anne Nagel	9/29/15	7/ 6/66	50
William Newell	1/ 6/94	2/21/67	73
Wheeler Oakman	2/21/90	3/19/49	59
Dave O'Brien	5/31/12	11/ 8/69	57
Miles Osborne a/k/a Bud Osborne	7/20/84	2/ 2/64	79
Nestor Paiva	6/30/05	9/ 9/66	61
Helen Parrish	3/12/23	2/22/59	35
Ted Pearson		10/ 5/61	58
Jack Perrin	7/25/96	12/17/67	71
Irving Pichel	6/24/91	7/13/54	63
Guy Bates Post	1875	1/16/68	92
Lee Powell	5/15/08	7/29/44	36
Dick Purcell	8/ 6/05	4/10/44	38
Charles Quigley	2/12/06	8/ 5/64	58

Lionel Atwill and Dennis Moore in RAIDERS OF GHOST CITY.

Jack Randall	5/12/06	7/16/45	39
Herbert Rawlinson	11/15/85	7/12/53	67
George Reeves	1/ 6/14	6/16/59	45
Rin-Tin-Tin, Sr.	1916	8/ 8/32	16
Jason Robards, Sr.	12/31/92	4/ 4/63	70
William Royle	3/22/87	8/ 9/40	53
Sid Saylor	5/24/95	12/ 2/62	67
Armand Schaefer	8/ 5/98	9/26/67	69
C. Montague Shaw	3/23/82	2/ 6/68	85
Charles Stevens	5/26/93	8/22/64	71
Robert Strange	11/26/81	2/22/52	70
Ray Taylor		2/15/52	63
Forrest Taylor	12/29/83	2/19/65	81
Ken Terrell	4/29/04	3/ 8/66	61
Chief Thunder-Cloud	4/12/99	12/ 1/55	56
William Tracy	12/ 1/17	6/18/67	49
Ben Turpin	9/19/69	7/ 1/40	70
Tom Tyler	8/ 9/03	5/ 1/54	50
Robert Warwick	10/ 9/78	6/ 6/64	85
Guinn "Big Boy" Williams	4/26/00	6/ 6/62	62
Grant Withers	1/17/05	3/27/59	54
H. L. (Harry) Woods	5/ 5/89	12/28/68	79
Herbert Yates	8/24/80	2/ 3/66	85



Director JAMES W. HORNE

Horne directed (or co-directed) a dozen serials in five years for Columbia Pictures. Why he received the assignments—or even accepted them, for that matter—is not easy to comprehend, since his forte was directing comedies. Many of them (and all highly amusing) starred Laurel and Hardy, and Charlie Chase. In fact, in '37 he directed "Way Out West" with L. & H. — just one year before his initial chapter-play, THE SPIDER'S WEB. But, on occasion he did manage to sneak an element of humor into his serials (see pg. 59, THE IRON CLAW).

Back to THE SPIDER'S WEB. It was declared, at the time, by "Fame" (published annually by the people who put out the weekly, "Motion Picture Herald") to be the greatest episode drama out of eleven produced in 1938. Horne had shared directoral credit with Ray Taylor. [Editor's Note: The award was infameous. Compared to THE LONE RANGER and THE FIGHTING DEVIL DOGS (from Republic), story and production values of WEB were pallid. And that is putting it kindly.]

Horne was born in San Francisco on 12/14/1881 . . . and left us on 6/29/42 at the age of 60. His final serial was PERILS OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED (and not a bad one), released the same year he died.

The photo on the left shows Horne looking at the mammoth shooting script for DEADWOOD DICK ('40). It's an obvious publicity pose to promote to exhibitors "a genuine Eberhard Faber fountain pen and pencil set at the unprecedented low price of 33 cents for both!" for use as prizes to lure customers into seeing the serial.

Mr. Horne wrote a fine chapter in serial history and left us with some pleasant memories.

THOSE ENDURING SERIAL FANS

Letters from TEMI fans are most welcome. However, the information supplied in these columns by readers is based on their opinions. The editor does not necessarily purport the info to be complete, exact or accurate.

YOUNG EAGLES

I recently screened a couple of episodes of YOUNG EAGLES and found it to be really primitive. No music is used, except thru the credits, and there is very, very little action after the solution or before the cliffhanger. Chapter two's ending (see lobby card, pg. 102) occured when Bobby Cox was tossed, screaming (as he did in almost every cliffhanger), into the deepest, darkest pit I have ever seen.

Earl W. Blair, Jr.
Houston, Texas

* * *

DAVID SHARPE

That Sharpe leap from CRIME, INC. on pg. 101 is a thriller. Dave, incidently, was doubling Jack Mulhall, of all people, in this sequence. Sharpe, except for a few of his unusual feats, did not sub for Ralph Byrd in this title (Bud Wolfe was the man, since he was more to Byrd's six-foot stature.) Instead, Davy was kept busy supplanting The Ghost, Mulhall, Forrest Taylor, Michael Owen, and even playing himself as a heavy in one episode. To the best of my knowledge, Sharpe never doubled Byrd at all in the three other TRACYS despite, in RETURNS, having a part in chapter one for which he received billing. (He was killed in the second reel.)

Woody Langley
Studio City, Calif.

* * *

ENIGMA

Whatever happened to Richard Alexander who was Thorg in S.O.S. COAST GUARD, El Lobo in ZORRO RIDES AGAIN and Prince Barin in FLASH GORDON?

Ken Joyce
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Editor's Note: We would like to know the answer to that question, too, since all three serials you mentioned will be covered in chapter ten of TEMI.

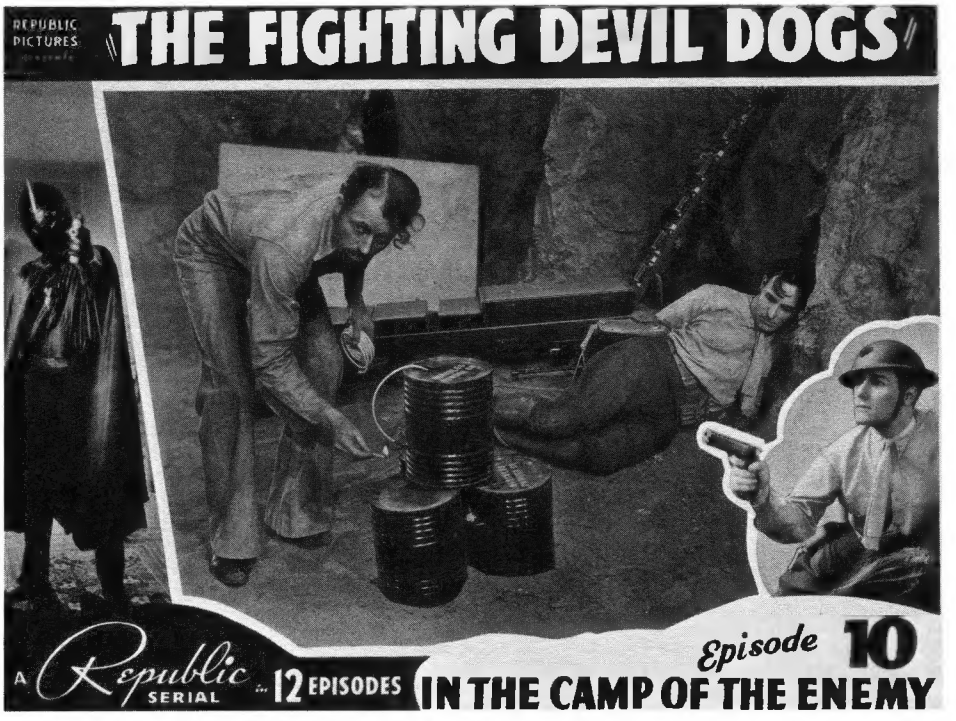
* * *

CHAPTER 13

I am sorry to report the death of Kermit Maynard. It was listed in the obituary columns on 1/21/71. Kermit, 73, was the brother of Ken.

Some of the serials Kermit appeared in are: THE GREAT ADVS. OF WILD BILL HICKOCK; KING OF THE TEXAS RANGERS; PERILS OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED; JUNGLE RAIDERS; PERILS OF THE WILDERNESS; and, as "Al" in Columbia's last theatrical serial release, BLAZING THE OVERLAND TRAIL.

John Stoginski
Chicago, Illinois



On three occasions, TEMI has neglected to identify AL TAYLOR. To make amends, here is a "dividend" for Al's legion of fans. And, per usual, he is up to no good. At the far left is the masked *Lightning*, and the unconscious marine is Lee Powell.

STRIKE OUT

You missed Al Taylor again!!! He is sitting right there (at the top of pg. 95) between Kay Hughes and Bob Livingston. The rider directly behind Miss Hughes is Jack Kirk.

Wayne Campbell
Memphis, Tenn.

* * *

MANUEL KING

TEMI readers should be interested in knowing that Manuel King (World's Youngest Wild Animal Trainer), top-featured in DARKEST AFRICA ('36), is in good health and operates a pet shop in Houston, Texas.

We talked for quite a while recently about AFRICA, and he informed me that:

(1) All scenes with Baru taming or otherwise being seen with wild animals, were filmed in Brownsville, Texas. Republic constructed a cave/jungle set and filmed the wild animal scenes at King's training area.

(2) Most, if not all, wild animal scenes with Beatty were "stock" from THE LOST JUNGLE.

(3) The Lydecker "Bat-Men" were made of balsa wood.

(4) As Baru, he wore a wig.

(5) Joseph Kane was a pretty demanding director, while "Breezy" Eason was likable and easy to work with.

(6) King's father was, after DARKEST AFRICA, negotiating with the Burroughs-Tarzan Enterprise to do a film (serial?) based on SON OF TARZAN. It never came off.

Earl Blair, Jr.
Houston, Texas

Editor's Note: We hope to have an expansive interview with Mr. King in TEMI #10.

AMUSING DIALOGUE

I enjoy reading letters from readers regarding funny lines of dialogue found in serials. Here are two submissions from me:

In FLASH GORDON ('36), the opening episode has Flash (Buster Crabbe), Dale (Jean Rogers) and Doctor Zarkov (Frank Shannon), heading to the planet *Mongo* in the rocketship. Suddenly, Dale begins to sway unsteadily. "Air! Air!" she gasps.

"What's the matter with her, doctor?" Flash asks Zarkov anxiously.

"It's nothing to worry about," Zarkov assures him. "In the excitement of the take-off, I forgot to turn on the oxygen!"

And in BATMAN AND ROBIN ('49), the mysterious *Wizard* makes himself invisible. "Can you hear me, Neal?" he asks his henchman (played by Lee Roberts). "Yeah," replies Roberts shakily, "but I can't see you!"

"That's because I'm invisible!" comes the brilliant answer!

H. W. Seacombe
London, England

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ZORRO RIDES AGAIN

Chris Collier (of Queensland, Australia) sent me the following newspaper clipping. It is too good not to share. Zorro would seem to be a matinee idol who really endures.

Rio De Janeiro, Monday 10/26/70 (AAP): *Zorro is riding again in the northeastern Brazilian state capitol of Fortaleza.*

A man wearing an outfit resembling the one made famous by the fictional hero, released all the prisoners in a suburban police station.

The report said the improvised Zorro burst into the police station shouting: "I'm Zorro!"

The policemen on duty, who were sleeping at the time, ran away as Zorro started shooting at the walls of the jail.

Jim Stringham
Lansing, Michigan

John Carroll as Zorro.

CHARACTER ACTORS

Regarding the two men pictured in your masthead (pg. 89). Anthony Warde was seen recently on T.V. in the '64 film, "The Carpetbaggers." He provided a loan for George Peppard and Lew Ayres in the scene. Altho a villain most of the time on the screen, Warde doubled during W.W. II as an actor by day and did defense plant work at night to help out his country.

I. Stanford Jolley (his name seldom fit the roles he played) is still active in T.V. Saw him recently in a "Bonanza" show as a bartender. He, too, usually played a villain or card sharp in earlier days.

Jerry Mezerow
Placentia, Calif.

* * *

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Re the comment on the erratic nature of billing (pg. 102), I would say that this applies to all Hollywood studios, to this very day. Many character actors had established audiences, and yet would go unbilled more often than not. Sometimes this was just the actor's laxity in demanding billing, sometimes not. The Warner Brothers' "Joe McDoakes" shorts of the '40s and '50s features an endless procession of fine supporting players, including Lyle Talbot, Jane Frazee, Fritz Feld, Phyllis Coates, Frank Nelson, and Joi Lansing, yet *no one* ever received billing except the series' star, George O'Hanlon. You can still go to see a new Hollywood movie and find all sorts of interesting people unbilled. The latest ones that come to mind are Benny Rubin in "Airport" and Grady Sutton in "Dirty Dingus Magee."

Leonard Maltin
Editor, F.F.M.

"You mentioned on pg. 72 that you were looking for a pic of the masked *Rattler* in MYSTERY MOUNTAIN. Here he is—with his dark glasses, false nose and mustache, and black cape—doing battle with Ken Maynard. Please accept it with our compliments." – Urwin Hendrix and Jim Stringham, Lansing, Michigan.

Editor's Note: Thank you, gentlemen. My 37-year search has come to a happy climax.

THAT ENDURING "MATINEE IDOLS" EDITOR

This editor said on several occasions that TEMI is a one-man *tour de force*. No longer true. The board of directors has unanimously elected . . .

JAMES A. STRINGHAM
CHIEF – ILLUSTRATIONS DIVISION

His assistance in the category is immeasurable. Jim, like many other TEMI readers, is determined to see that this publication not only succeeds, but gets better and better and better.

The cover illustration for last chapter came from Jim. The dirigible highlighting this episode is from our own collection. For the next chapter, our generous correspondent, A. GUTIERREZ, has come up with a rare gem from THE PAINTED STALLION.

Kudoes, too, to ERIC HOFFMAN. He provided much of the story material for R.C.O.C.I. and FLASH GORDON.

On page 120 is an ad promoting HOUSTONCON '71. Not advertised is that a feature of the program will be FOUR HOURS of chapter highlights from a dozen or so serials! Also not advertised is the fact this "enduring editor" WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE—which assures the showing of at least one episode from THE FIGHTING DEVIL DOGS ??!!

Two compatriots of ours, Ted Riggs and Ken Jones, have combined their "respected" talents and put out an excellent mag, YESTERYEAR. It's loaded with nostalgia — 40 pages. The lead story is called: SOUND SERIALS OF YESTERYEAR by Robert M. Malcomson. This article contains much info (tho "Randolph" is spelled wrong thrice) that has never seen its way into print in TEMI. (Too, this is the first time your editor has acquiesced to submitting a story to another mag—and have it published, yet!) The price for a copy may sound "downright preposterous": $2.00. But, it is worth every penny. For a copy of YESTERYEAR, write Ted Riggs, 805 Bridgewater Road, Knoxville, Tenn. 37919.

Advertised in this chapter is Larry Byrd's DEADWOOD. If you are a western buff, without reservation we recommend that you at least send a "buck" for his first issue. The printing quality—and writing—are magnificent.

– BOB MALCOMSON

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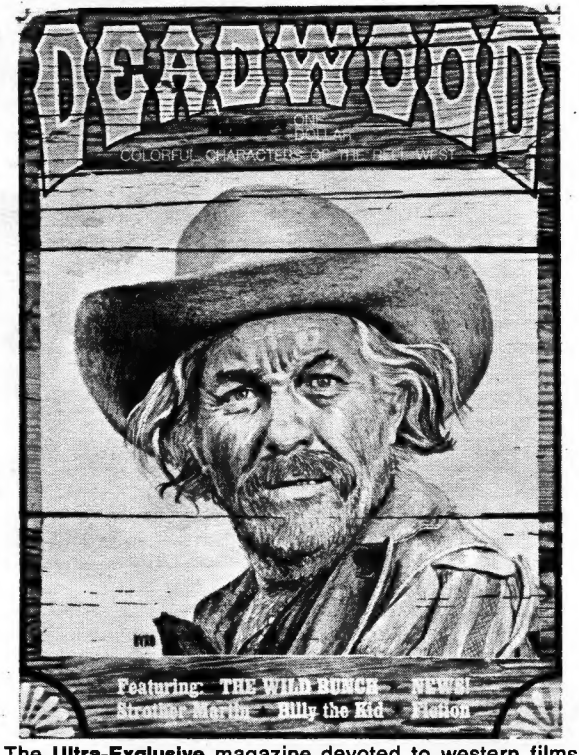

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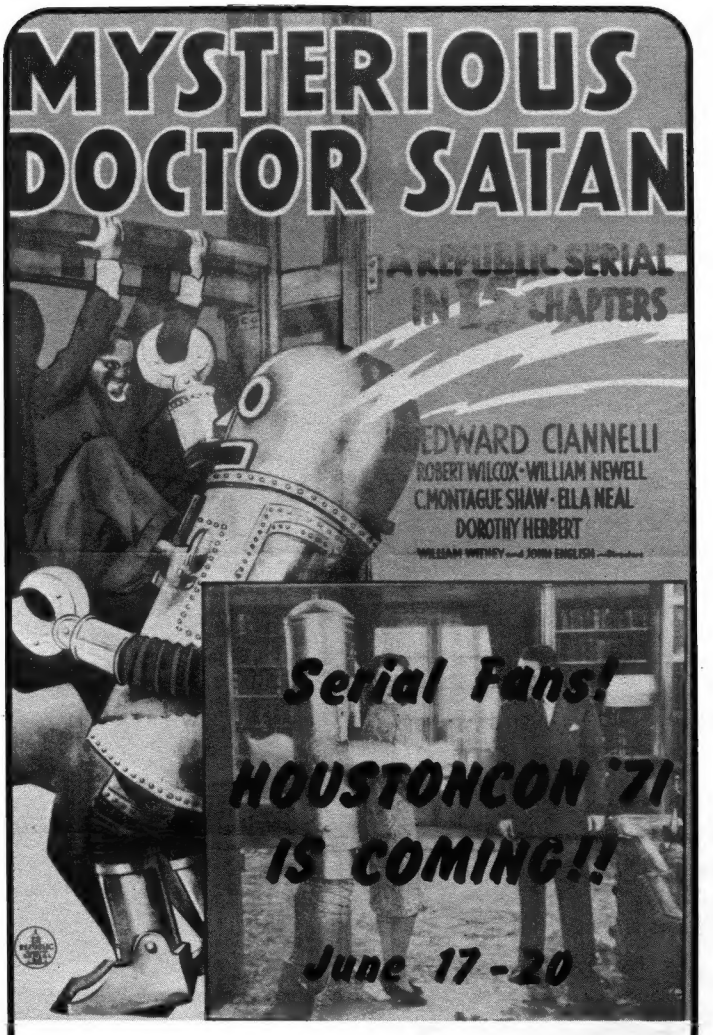

On Screen - MYSTERIOUS DR. SATAN, S.O.S. COAST GUARD
In Person - KIRK "Superman" ALYN
Watch Chapter #10 of TEM! for list of additional SERIALS.

• • •

HOUSTONCON will be held at the Continental Houston Hotel in the heart of the downtown section. Room rates: $12 a day (singles); $16 (double). Tickets to gala event, only $4.00. Dealer tables, $6.00 each. For further details, write Earl Blair, 2511 Pennington Street, Houston, Texas 77016.

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